

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7589

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 15807

EXCON

E.O. 11652 XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, BE, RO, EEWT, ETRO

SUBJECT: BELGIAN N/C JIG BORING AND MILLING MACHINE TO

ROMANIA - IL 1091

REFS: A. COCOM DOC. (75) 797

B. OECD PARIS 15144

SUMMARY. ON INSTRUCTIONS, BELGIAN DEL
WITHDREW THIS CASE ON JUNE 17 AND ANNOUNCED HIS AUTHORI-
TIES WOULD LICENSE IT WITHOUT COCOM APPROVAL. IN STATE-
MENT STRONGLY CRITICAL OF US, HE CITED RISK OF ECONO-
MIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DAMAGE IN SENSE OF PARAGRAPH
(1)(D) OF GENERAL EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURE IN SUPPORT OF THIS
ACTION. OTHER DELS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR BELGIAN ACTION
AND RESERVED RIGHT TO COMMENT FURTHER. LONG PROCEDURAL
DEBATE ENSUED ON PARAGRAPH (1)(D), SEVERAL DELS FAVORING
GENERAL DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING. ACTION REQUEST-
ED: (A) EXPLANATION OF US INACTION AND COMMENT ON BEL-
GIAN ACTION; (B) VIEWS ON FUTURE DISCUSSION OF PARA-
GRAPH (1)(D). END SUMMARY.

1. THIS CASE GENERATED A DEBATE LASTING NEARLY 2 HOURS

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AT COMMITTEE'S MEETING JUNE 17, FOR WHICH IT HAD BEEN

RESCHEDULED. WHEN USDEL, STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS (THE ONLY MEMBER NOT TO HAVE APPROVED) AGAIN REQUESTED TIME EXTENSION, BELGIAN DEL ON INSTRUCTIONS LAUNCHED INTO A STATEMENT BITTERLY CRITICAL OF US FAILURE TO STATE A POSITION OR PUT QUESTIONS AFTER CASE HAD BEEN BEFORE COMMITTEE SIX TIMES. HE MAINTAINED THAT THIS MACHINE HAD NO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. IT WAS OBSOLESCENT AND HENCE COULD ONLY BE EXPORTED TO THE EAST, AND NOT TO ADVANCED WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE US AUTHORITIES WERE TAKING GOOD CARE OF THEIR OWN MANUFACTURERS, HE CLAIMED. IN AN UNFORTUNATE COMPARISON (WHICH HOWEVER DID NOT MATERIALLY DETRACT FROM THE FORCE OF HIS STATEMENT) HE DREW ATTENTION TO APPROVAL OF UNIVAC COMPUTER IN COCOM DOC. (75) 749 (AEROFLOT CASE), WHICH HE SAID HAD 10 TIMES THE CAPACITY OF THE COMPUTER CONTROL IN THIS CASE. HE ALSO SAID IMBG GENTRI-MILLS (SIC) MILLING MACHINE MANUFACTURED IN GERMANY UNDER LICENSE FROM INGERSOLL CORP., WITH SAME N/C AS IN PRESENT CASE, WAS BEING EXPORTED TO ROMANIA WITH COCOM APPROVAL, BUT HE COULD NOT SUPPLY DOCUMENTARY REFERENCE. HE ADDED OFF-RECORD THAT BELGIAN SUPPLIER FIRM PEGARD REPORTED IT HAD STIFF COMPETITION FOR THIS ORDER FROM THREE U.S. FIRMS: GIDDINGS & LEWIS, CINCINNATI, AND KEARN & TREKER (SIC.). HE SAID US AUTHORITIES COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE ALTERNATIVE APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE FIRMS.

2. BELGIAN THEN ANNOUNCED HIS AUTHORITIES HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO REFUSE ANY FURTHER TIME EXTENSION. HE RECOUNTED CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 2, REF B, AND ADDED THAT BELGIAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT IF HUNDREDS OF WORKERS WERE LAID OFF OWING TO LOSS OF THE ORDER RESULTING FROM PROTRACTED DELAY ON THIS CASE. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED, THEREFORE, TO "INVOKE THE PROCEDURE" IN COCOM DOC. REG (73)3, PARAGRAPH (1)(D), WITHDRAW THE CASE, AND ANNOUNCE THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD LICENSE THE EXPORT DESPITE THE COMMITTEE'S FAILURE TO APPROVE IT.

3. OTHER DELS (UK, FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN) EXPRESSED
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STRONG SYMPATHY WITH BELGIAN ACTION AND RESERVED THEIR RIGHT TO ADD FURTHER COMMENTS LATER.

4. BEFORE MEETING, BELGIAN HAD INFORMALLY TOLD USDEL A COMPLICATING FACTOR HAD BEEN LOSS OF FRENCH ORDERS BY PEGARD DUE TO BELGIAN CHOICE OF YF-16 OVER MIRAGE, AND DUE ALSO TO CANCELLATION OF FRENCH OGYERS FOR 250 SPECIAL COMPRESSORS (AT \$25,000 EACH) FOR FRENCH NUCLEAR RE-

ACTORS. LOSS OF THESE ORDERS HAD BECOME KNOWN ONLY RE-
CENTLY, AND HAD MADE MORE ACUTE PEGARD'S FINANCIAL CRI-
SIS. PEGARD, HE ADDED, IS LOCATED IN FRENCH-SPEAKING

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AREA OF BELGIUM. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS HE COULD NOT PUT
THIS INFORMATION ON COCOM RECORD.

5. IN REPLY, USDEL SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT, AND MUST
REJECT, APPARENT IMPLICATION THAT US AUTHORITIES WERE
PUTTING INTERESTS OF US MANUFACTURERS AHEAD OF THOSE
OF OTHER MEMBERS IN THEIR TREATMENT OF COCOM CASES, OR
THAT THEY HAD DELAYED ACTION ON THE BELGIAN CASE TO AL-
LOW US FIRMS TO BID ON SAME CASE. HE INSISTED CASE WAS
BEING CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS AND THAT IF ALTERNATE
US REQUESTS HAD BEEN IN THE OFFING, HE WOULD HAVE HEARD
ABOUT THEM BY NOW. (BELGIAN DEL LATER DENIED THAT
HE HAD INTENDED SUCH IMPLICATION.) AS FOR COMPARISON
WITH AEROFLOT CASE, USDEL SAID COMPUTER THERE WAS IN-
TENDED FOR ENTIRELY DIFFERENT END-USE AND
THE TWO CASES WERE NOT COMPARABLE. ON PROCEDURAL ASPECT,
USDEL POINTED OUT THAT ALL PC'S HAVE SOVEREIGN RIGHT
TO LICENSE AN EXPORT WITH OR WITHOUT COCOM APPROVAL.
PARAGRAPH (1)(D) HAD NOT BEEN DRAFTED IN ORDER TO ENABLE
MEMBER COUNTRIES TO EXERCISE A RIGHT THEY ALREADY POS-

SESSED. WHAT IT DID WAS TO INTRODUCE AN EXTRAORDINARY FACTOR WHICH THE SUBMITTING DEL COULD CALL UPON THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER IN CERTAIN CASES, BOUND TO BE RATHER RARE, AND WHICH OVERRODE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE LEAD A MEMBER TO CONSIDER ENTERING AN CONFIDENTIAL

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OBJECTION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCUMBENT ON US AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER THIS FACTOR IF BELGIUM HAD REQUESTED IT, INSTEAD OF WITHDRAWING THE CASE.

6. LONG DEBATE ENSUED, DURING WHICH IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE UNITY OF VIEW ON THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF PARAGRAPH (1)(D). GERMAN DEL RECALLED FRENCH CASE IN COCOM DOC.(NUMBER TO BE SUPPLIED) WHICH WAS WITHDRAWN WITH APPEAL TO PARAGRAPH (1)(D). ON PERSONAL BASIS, ITALIAN DEL SUGGESTED THAT MATTER BE DISCUSSED AT A REGULAR COCOM MEETING, SINCE HE THOUGHT CONTINUING ECONOMIC RECESSION MIGHT LEAD OTHER DELS TO INVOKE (1)(D). ON NETHERLANDS MOTION CHAIRMAN MADE A TOUR OF THE TABLE. SEVERAL DELS FAVORED A FORMAL DISCUSSION AND EVEN SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE PROCEDURE IN SOME UNSPECIFIED WAY TO DEFINE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH (1)(D) COULD BE INVOKED. USDEL REITERATED VIEWS PUT FORWARD IN PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE, AND CHAIRMAN AND GERMAN DEL ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THOSE VIEWS. USDEL SAID THAT IF HIS INTERPRETATION WAS CORRECT, HE DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WAS REALLY ANYTHING TO DISCUSS AND COULD SEE LITTLE GOOD IN HAVING MATTER SCHEDULED FOR FORMAL DEBATE. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT DELS WOULD SEEK THEIR AUTHORITIES' VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, FORMULATED BY CHAIRMAN.

- A) DO ALL PC'S HAVE SAME INTERPRETATION OF (1)(D)--I.E., AS MERELY FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION, OR AS BASIS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CASE AND LICENSING IT DESPITE LACK OF COCOM APPROVAL;
- B) DO DELS WISH TO AMEND (1)(D)?

7. USDEL COMMENTS: BELGIAN WITHDRAWAL OF THIS CASE, AND BELGIUM'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO LICENSE THE EXPORT, REQUIRE AT LEAST A STATEMENT FROM THE US ON REASONS FOR ITS DISREGARD OF THE SPIRIT OF COCOM RULES IN THE FACE OF REPEATED APPEALS FOR VIEWS OR QUESTIONS. US AUTHORITIES WILL RECOGNIZE THAT OUR INACTION HAS DIRECTLY PRECIPITATED ACTION VERY RARELY TAKEN BY MEMBER COUNTRIES. IT HAS ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT A PROCEDURAL DEBATE WHICH MAY HAVE UNSETTLING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE AND WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE A POSITION
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WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME.

8. ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF PARAGRAPH (1)(D), OUR VIEW REMAINS AS STATED IN COMMITTEE AND IN PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE: THAT IT WAS INTENDED ONLY AS A FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION AND NOT AS AN ESCAPE CLAUSE OR SIMILAR PROCEDURAL DEVICE. MOVE TO AMEND PROCEDURE IN SOME WAY SO AS TO LINK (1)(D) TO RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL AND LICENSING WITHOUT COMMITTEE APPROVAL IS UNNECESSARY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE UNFORESEEABLE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) STATEMENT EXPLAINING US INACTION ON BELGIAN CASE AND COMMENT, IF ANY IS POSSIBLE, ON BELGIAN INTENT TO LICENSE IT;
(B) US VIEWS ON RECOURSE TO PARAGRAPH (1)(D) AND DESIRABILITY OF DEBATE ON THE QUESTION.
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